

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



September 1, 2003

Dear Colleague:

We are initiating a national search for an Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences, to be appointed March 1, 2004, and seek your assistance in the identification of candidates. Dr. Norman M. Bradburn has served in this position with great distinction since 2000 and we are grateful for his dedication to the Foundation.

The Assistant Director, SBE, leads a Directorate comprised of three divisions and one office: Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences; Social and Economic Sciences; Science Resources Statistics; and the Office of International Science and Engineering. Enclosed is an information sheet that summarizes the Directorate's activities and the responsibilities of the position, together with criteria that will be used in the search. Employment may be on a temporary or permanent basis in the Federal Service or by temporary assignment under provisions of the Intergovernmental Personnel Act.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has agreed to head the screening committee. The Committee seeks your help in identifying candidates with outstanding leadership qualifications; a grasp of the challenges and opportunities facing the social, behavioral, and economic sciences in research and education; and the ability to serve effectively as a key member of the NSF policy and management team. We are especially interested in identifying women, members of minority groups, and persons with disabilities for consideration. Recommendations of individuals from every sector – academe, industry, or government – are welcome.

Please send your recommendations, including any supporting information which you might be able to provide, to AD/SBE Screening Committee via e-mail ([sbesrch@lists.nsf.gov](mailto:sbesrch@lists.nsf.gov)) or at the following address: National Science Foundation, Office of the Director, Suite 1205, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230. We would appreciate receiving them by October 31, 2003.

Your assistance in this very important matter is appreciated.



Rita R. Colwell  
Director

Enclosures

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

**SCREENING COMMITTEE REVIEW CRITERIA  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES (SBE)**

**We are seeking demonstrated evidence of ability in the following areas:**

**Leading Change**

- Ability to serve effectively as a member of NSF's senior leadership team, helping to develop consensus both within the directorate and across the agency on policy and plans.
- Working knowledge of the major current intellectual challenges and opportunities in the social, behavioral and economic sciences and ability to foster creativity and innovation in formulating responses and leading change.
- Ability to develop and implement strategic plans that support research and education in the social, behavioral and economic sciences disciplinary areas, promote opportunities for multidisciplinary research and partnership, and integrate key national and program goals.

**Leading People and Programs**

- Ability to provide results-driven leadership to an organization that includes diverse and complex program areas involved in close partnership and collaboration with other parts of the Foundation, the research community, other Federal agencies and interagency groups, and the international S&T community.
- Ability to lead and motivate an organization consisting of approximately 140 scientific and administrative personnel and to manage the organization's human, financial, material and information resources.

**Representation/Building Coalitions**

- Ability to serve as the senior spokesperson for the SBE Directorate and to communicate NSF policy and strategic plans effectively to the external community, including the public, the Congress, and scientific colleagues in other disciplines. Involves skill in negotiation and advocacy in complex situations involving diverse parties and interests.

**Credibility within Research and Education Community**

- Deep sense of scholarship and significant scientific contributions to one or more of in the social, behavioral and economic sciences.
- Broad understanding of universities and other institutions where research and education in the social, behavioral and economic sciences is conducted.
- Familiarity with the existing U.S. and international infrastructure that supports research and education in science and engineering.
- High level of professional recognition in the science community as evidenced by positions held, publications, and/or professional awards.

**Commitment**

- Commitment to the goals of the NSF Strategic Plan, including the integration of research and education, and the ability to conceptualize the role of SBE in achieving those goals.
- Commitment to the employment and development of a highly qualified staff that reflects the diversity of our nation and to the equitable representation of underrepresented groups and institutions on advisory committees, in workshops, and proposal review panels.

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230

**The National Science Foundation**  
**Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences**

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is an independent agency of the United States Government. The agency's vision is to enable the nation's future through discovery, learning and innovation in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology. It seeks to realize this vision through investments in people, ideas, and tools as articulated in NSF's Strategic Plan ([http://www.nsf.gov/od/stratplan\\_03-08/draft-stratplan.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/od/stratplan_03-08/draft-stratplan.htm)). NSF makes awards that total more than \$5 billion annually with most support provided to researchers and educators who have submitted proposals that undergo merit evaluation based on peer review.

The **Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)** is one of seven NSF directorates and is organized into three divisions and one office: Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences; Social and Economic Sciences; Science Resources Statistics; and the Office of International Science and Engineering. The Directorate employs approximately 142 employees and administers a budget of \$168 million for the three disciplinary divisions and \$27 million for the Office of International Science and Engineering. The Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) supports disciplinary and interdisciplinary research to develop and advance scientific knowledge focusing on human cognition, language, social behavior and culture, as well as research on the interactions between human societies and the physical environment. Programs include Archaeology and Archaeometry; Cognitive Neuroscience; Cultural Anthropology; Developmental and Learning Sciences; Geography and Regional Sciences; Perception, Action, and Cognition; Physical Anthropology; and Social Psychology. The Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES) supports disciplinary and interdisciplinary research to develop and advance scientific knowledge focusing on economic, legal, political and social systems, organizations and institutions. In addition, SES supports research on the intellectual and social contexts that govern the development and use of science and technology. Programs include Decision, Risk, and Management Science; Economics; Innovation and Organizational Change; Law and Social Science; Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics; Political Science; Science and Technology Studies; Societal Dimensions of Engineering, Science, and Technology; Ethics and Values Studies, Research on Science and Technology; and Sociology. Both BCS and SES support Cross-Disciplinary Activities and participate in special initiatives and competitions on a number of topics, including the human dimensions of global change and infrastructure to improve data resources, data archives, collaboratories, and centers, as well as cognitive science and intelligent systems in BCS. The Division of Science Resources Statistics (SRS) provides statistical data, quantitative analysis, and indicators on the science and engineering enterprise: education, workforce, research and development funding, and research facilities. The Office of International Science and Engineering (INT) serves as the focal point for the agency's international science and engineering activities, working in close partnership with NSF Directorates on international research collaborations and training opportunities and managing its own programs that include support for U.S. scientists, engineers, and students (undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers) involved in international projects.

The **Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences** provides leadership and direction to National Science Foundation's programs which support research and education in all fields of the social, behavioral, and economic sciences; programs involving the analysis and dissemination of data concerning the health of the U.S. science and technology enterprise. The incumbent is responsible for planning and implementing programs, priorities (particularly the NSF Human and Social Dynamics Priority Area), and policy within the framework of statutory and National Science Board authority. He or she must have outstanding leadership abilities; a deep sense of scholarship; a grasp of the opportunities and challenges facing the social, behavioral and economic sciences in research and education; and a commitment to the goals and strategies of the National Science Foundation.